

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 16533 201711Z

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-06 /022 W

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R 201502Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0096

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STATE FOR CU/EE, EUR/SOV

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJ: SOVIET TRANSLATOR RITA RAIT

1. WHILE EMB WISHES TO ENCOURAGE EXTENSION OF INVITATION TO RAIT TO ATTEND UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE TRANSLATORS' CONVENTION, WE DO NOT WISH TO HAVE IVP GRANT EXTENDED TO HER. EMB VIEWS RAIT VISIT AS PRIMARILY AN ATTEMPT BY VONNEGUT TO REWARD RAIT FOR HER WORK TRANSLATING HIS WRITING. WHILE SHE CERTAINLY HAS CONTRIBUTED TO MAKING VONNEGUT'S LITERATURE MORE WIDELY AVAILABLE TO SOVIET AUDIENCES, SHE IS NOT LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO BE ACTIVE AS TRANSLATOR FOR LONG PERIOD. EMB PREFERS TO RESERVE LIMITED IV FUNDS FOR VISITS BY YOUNGER PERSONS WHO ARE LIKELY TO PLAY IMPORTANT ROLES IN POLITICAL AND/OR ECONOMIC RELATIONS OR EXPANSION OF EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITIES. RAIT IS OLD AND NOT IN GOOD HEALTH. EMBOFF HAS BEEN TOLD BY KUDRYAVTSEVA OF JOURNAL OF FOREIGN LIT. THAT RAIT COULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE INCLUDED IN SOVIET TRANSLATORS' DELEGATION FOR HEALTH REASONS. SOVIET PRACTICE, SHE SAID, REQUIRES THAT ALL DELEGATION MEMBERS BE IN EXCELLENT HEALTH BEFORE TRAVEL ABROAD WILL BE PERMITTED.

2. KUDRYAVTSEVA INDICATED, HOWEVER, IF RAIT RECEIVES A PRIVATE INVITATION TO GO TO U.S. INDIVIDUALLY AND NOT WITH DELEGATION SHE IS QUITE CERTAIN TRIP WOULD BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POSSIBLE. SOVIETS MIGHT EVEN BE WILLING TO FUND

ROUND-TRIP TRAVEL.

3. IF DEPT. CAN PROVIDE GRANT-IN-AID TO COVER PORTION
OF COSTS TO U.S. SPONSORING AGENCY WE BELIEVE THIS
WOULD BE MORE SUITABLE WAY TO ATTEMPT TO HELP VONNEGUT
IN HIS EFFORT.
MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW16533
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760394-1063
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761033/aaaabcft.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <10 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET TRANSLATOR RITA RAIT
TAGS: OEXC, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006